

Message Text

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USICA WASHDC
USNMR SHAPE
SECSTATE WASHDC 7059
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 BRUSSELS 10941

USICA

USINFO FOR PGM/RC; PGM/PP; EU; STATE FOR EUR AND AF

E.O. 11652 N/A
SUBJECT: BELGIAN MEDIA REVIEW

BELGIAN MEDIA CONTINUED TO DISCUSS ZAIRE JUNE 5.
LA LIBRE BELGIQUE CARRIES AN INTERVIEW WITH FOREIGN
MINISTER SIMONET CENTERED ON THE PROBLEMS OF SECURITY IN
AFRICA. DISCUSSING THE CREATION OF AN ALL-AFRICAN FORCE,
SIMONET IS QUOTED AS SAYING: "IT IS OBVIOUS THAT THE
IDEAL WOULD BE EITHER A UN PEACE-KEEPING FORCE OR AN OAU
FORCE OR AN OAU FORCE IN COOPERATION WITH THE UN....
I SHALL BE VERY PRUDENT REGARDING ANY DECISION THAT COULD
BE PERCEIVED AS AN EVIDENCE OF THE WILL OF THE EUROPEANS
TO SUBSTITUTE THEMSELVES FOR THE AFRICANS...." ASKED
ABOUT HIS MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR YOUNG, SIMONET IS QUOTED
AS SAYING: "IT WAS AN EXCELLENT MEETING. HE HAS A VERY
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BALANCED VIEW OF THE AFRICAN SITUATION. IT IS WRONG TO
SAY THAT THE AMERICANS HAVE GIVEN UP IN AFRICA. WHEN
SAYING THAT, ONE THINKS OFTEN ABOUT A MILITARY INTERVEN-
TION. IT IS TRUE THAT THE AMERICANS BELIEVE THAT THEY
SHOULD NOT AND THAT THEY CANNOT INTERVENE MILITARILY IN
AFRICA. THE U.S. AND PARTICULARLY THE OFFICIALS OF THE
ADMINISTRATION WHOM I HAVE MET ARE CONCERNED ABOUT TOO

STRONG A COMMUNIST PENETRATION IN AFRICA, BUT THEY ARE ALSO CONCERNED NOT TO TAKE BLATANT, BRUTAL, INCONSIDERATE INITIATIVES THAT WOULD REINFORCE THIS PENETRATION. AND THEY WANT TO ELIMINATE ASPECTS OF THE SITUATION WHICH AFRICAN OPINION CONDEMNS AND WHICH PROMPT A NUMBER OF GROUPS OR AFRICAN COUNTRIES TO TURN TOWARD THE EASTERN COUNTRIES. AT THE SAME TIME THEY ARE ADDRESSING A NUMBER OF SIGNALS TO THE USSR AND TO CUBA AND THEY ARE THE ONLY ONES WHO CAN DO THAT."

LA LIBRE ALSO CARRIES AN ARTICLE BY FORMER EC COMMISSIONER ALBERT COPPE ON THE SOVIETS' ROLE IN THE ZAIRE AFFAIR: "THERE ISN'T ANY DOUBT LEFT ANYMORE THAT THIS IS AN OPERATION PREPARED AND MANAGED BY CUBANS AND CONSEQUENTLY OF SOVIET MAKE.... NORMALLY ONE SHOULD HAVE BEEN ABLE TO RECKON ON THE AMERICAN POLICEMAN. UNFORTUNATELY HE IS PARALYZED BY PARTICULARLY UNFORTUNATE PROBLEMS OF DOMESTIC POLICY. THE MEMORY OF THE VIETNAM WAR IS NOT FORGOTTEN AND CONTINUES TO AFFECT RELATIONS BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT, CONGRESS AND THE PENTAGON TO AN EXTENT WHICH IS HARD TO IMAGINE ON THIS SIDE OF THE ATLANTIC. ON THE OTHER HAND MR. CARTER, FULL OF GOOD INTENTIONS, SEEMS TO BE PARTICULARLY IRRESOLUTE WHEN THE MOMENT HAS COME TO MAKE MAJOR DECISIONS ON THE WORLD SCALE FOR WHICH HIS PAST AS GOVERNOR OF GEORGIA HAD ILL-PREPARED HIM. OF COURSE THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT WILL CERTAINLY HELP AS MUCH AS IT CAN

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WITHOUT HAVING TO ASK THE AUTHORIZATION OF CONGRESS BUT IT CANNOT SEND MEN, AT LEAST NOT FOR THE MOMENT. THE AMERICAN CONGRESS DOES NOT SEEM TO BE WILLING TO UNDERSTAND THAT THIS IS A SOVIET OPERATION WHICH RISKS MAKING ALL OF AFRICA SWING TO THE COMMUNIST CAMP.... NEITHER THE U.S. NOR EUROPE CAN LET AT THE SAME TIME THE EASTERN HORN AND THE BELT OF AFRICA SWING TO COMMUNISM. HISTORY TEACHES THAT ONE CAN OPEN A DOOR TO THE SOVIETS IN A MOMENT OF POLITICAL HESITATION, BUT THAT IT IS THEN EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TO DISLODGE THEM. THE AMERICANS WILL REALIZE IT SOON IF MEASURES ARE NOT ADOPTED IMMEDIATELY. THE CONFERENCE WHICH BEGINS THIS MONDAY IN PARIS AND WHICH WILL AT THE SAME TIME DEAL WITH ECONOMIC REACTIVATION, WITH SECURITY AND WITH AN ALL-AFRICAN FORCE -- WITH FRENCH, GERMAN, BELGIAN, BRITISH AND AMERICAN LOGISTIC SUPPORT -- WILL BE OF MAJOR IMPORTANCE."

THEO POPPE IN GAZET VAN ANTWERPEN JUNE 3 FINDS IT SURPRISING THAT THERE IS ONLY TALK OF WHAT HE TERMS "THE SOVIET UNION'S CUBAN AFRICA CORPS" AND THAT NOWHERE IS THE EAST GERMAN INTERVENTION IN AFRICA MENTIONED, ALTHOUGH, ACCORDING TO THE INSTITUTE OF POLITICAL SCIENCES OF COLOGNE

UNIVERSITY, THE GDR HAS CONTRIBUTED 200 MILLION MARKS WORTH OF ARMS TO LEFTIST REGIMES IN AFRICA AND THE EAST GERMANS IN MANY CASES ARE PROVIDING MILITARY TRAINING TO THE SO-CALLED LIBERATION MOVEMENTS. POPPE CONTINUES, MORE GENERALLY, THAT "THE ONLY COUNTERWEIGHT (TO THE SOVIET-CUBAN-EAST GERMAN INTERVENTION) HAS SO FAR BEEN PROVIDED BY

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FRANCE WHICH IS ALSO AVAILABLE ON REQUEST IN AFRICA. BUT THE REQUESTS COME FROM LEADERS (SENGHOR, HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY) WHO HAVE REALIZED THE NEED TO CONTAIN THE RUSSIANS AT AN EARLY STAGE. FRANCE HOWEVER CANNOT CONTINUE TO ASSUME THIS TASK ALL ON HER OWN, ALTHOUGH IT WILL CONTINUE TO PLAY A LEADING ROLE. THIS WORRIES SOME PEOPLE BECAUSE THEY SUSPECT ECONOMIC CALCULATIONS BEHIND IT. THEY GIVE THE IMPRESSION OF PREFERRING TO SEE CUBANS RATHER THAN FRENCH IN SHABA. BUT SHOULD THE PROBLEM BE VIEWED SO NARROWLY? THERE IS MUCH MORE AT STAKE. IN THE FIRST PLACE HUMAN LIVES, ESPECIALLY LIVES OF WHITES WHO ARE WORKING THERE IN UNGRATIFYING CIRCUMSTANCES, BOTH TO THE BENEFIT OF THE AFRICAN COUNTRIES AND TO THAT OF THE WEST'S ECONOMY.... THUS ONE CAN ONLY HOPE THAT A PAN-AFRICAN SECURITY FORCE

WITH WESTERN LOGISTIC SUPPORT, INCLUDING AMERICAN, CAN BE
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WORKED OUT...."

SEVERAL PAPERS EXPRESS INDIGNATION AT PRESIDENT MOBUTU'S
LATEST ATTACK ON BELGIUM. MANY RUYS IN DE STANDAARD JUNE
3 WRITES: "THE WEST IS NOW SPECULATING ON A PAN-AFRICAN
ARMY WHICH WOULD GUARANTEE IN ZAIRE THE MINIMUM ORDER AND
SECURITY NECESSARY TO GET THE EUROPEAN RESCUE ACTION
POSSIBLE. BUT THE ANTI-BELGIAN CAMPAIGN THREATENS TO MAKE
THAT FORMULA UNUSEABLE. BELGIUM ITSELF DOES NOT HAVE THE
MILITARY MEANS TO PROTECT PERMANENTLY ITS CITIZENS AND
INTERESTS IN ZAIRE. AND EVEN IF IT WOULD HAVE SUCH MEANS
IT WOULD NOT BE WILLING TO ESTABLISH A NEW COLONIAL REGIME.
PUBLIC OPINION WOULD OPPOSE IT. FOR OUR GOVERNMENT, ZAIRE
IS NOW DEFINITELY BECOMING A VERY OPAQUE, ALMOST UNDI-
GESTIBLE FILE." ITEM

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